

DEVICE AND METHODS FOR AUTOMATED SPECIMEN PROCESSING

A device and methods for the automated histotechnological processing of a specimen are disclosed. The device comprises a microwave unit and a specimen positioning device which transports the specimen into a tank within the microwave unit where automated heating takes place. Preferably the microwave unit is controlled by a real-time microwave processor that permits control of the temperature within the microwave tank. Automated methods of dewaxing, antigen retrieval, nucleic acid retrieval, and hematoxylin and eosin staining which can be used in conjunction with the device are also provided. In one embodiment, a method is provided for simultaneous dewaxing and antigen retrieval; solutions useful for this method are also provided.

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